

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 09867 01 OF 02 271011Z

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 DHA-02 INR-05 NSC-05 NSCE-00

PM-03 SP-02 PRS-01 DODE-00 CIAE-00 /039 W

-----095657 271023Z /20

P 270933Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1613

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MANILA 9867

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, RP

SUBJECT: AQUINO-MARCOS MEETING

1. SUMMARY. THIS MESSAGE REPORTS SENATOR SALONGA'S ACCOUNT OF PRESIDENT MARCOS' 2 1/2 HOUR MEETING WITH SENATOR AQUINO TUESDAY, JUNE 21. IT WAS THEIR FIRST MEETING SINCE AQUINO IMPRISONED IN 1972. SALONGA CHARACTERIZED AQUINO AS "EUPHORIC" AFTER MEETING, ALTHOUGH SUBSEQUENTLY THE FORMER SENATOR WAS MORE SUBDUED ABOUT EVENTUAL RESULTS OF MEETING. END SUMMARY

2. ON JUNE 27 AQUINO'S PRINCIPAL ATTORNEY, SENATOR SALONGA, INVITED EMBOFF TO LUNCH TO DISCUSS AQUINO CASE. HE HAD SOUGHT EARLIER MEETING, BUT EMBOFF AWAY FROM MANILA ON FIELD TRIP. SALONGA SAID AQUINO AND MARCOS MET FOR 2 1/2 HOURS TUESDAY, JUNE 21. ATMOSPHERE OF MEETING EXTREMELY CORDIAL. MARCOS AND AQUINO, WHO ARE MEMBERS OF SAME UP FRATERNITY, ADDRESSED EACH OTHER AS "BROD."

3. SALONGA SAID MEETING BEGAN WITH MARCOS QUERING AQUINO ON HIS "MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM" EXPECTATIONS. AQUINO DECLINED TO SPECULATE ALONG THESE LINES. MARCOS THEN ASKED SUDDENLY "WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF I RELEASED YOU TOMORROW?" LATER IN AFTERNOON AQUINO CONFESSED TO SALONGA THAT HE WAS

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANILA 09867 01 OF 02 271011Z

SOMEWHAT TAKEN ABACK BY QUESTION. HIS RESPONSE WAS THAT SINCE HE HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO READ PAPERS FOR AT LEAST FIVE YEARS, HE WOULD CHECK WITH HIS FRIENDS AS TO MARCOS' PERFORMANCE AND THEN WOULD SPEAK OUT ACCORDINGLY. ON AQUINO'S STATING HE COULD NOT READ PAPERS, MARCOS CHARACTER-ISTICALLY AND EXPANSIVELY ORDERED THAT HE BE ALLOWED ACCESS TO PRESS AT ONCE SINCE HE WAS PERMITTED TO VIEW TELEVISION.

MARCOS ASKED AQUINO WHETHER IF POSITIONS HAD BEEN REVERSED HE WOULD NOT HAVE DONE EXACTLY THE SAME THING TO HIM, I.E. CONFINED HIM. FORMER SENATOR REPLIED HE WOULD HAVE PROBABLY CONFINED MARCOS FOR A FEW MONTHS, BUT THAT HE WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT HAVE DISSOLVED CONGRESS OR TERMINATED FREEDOM OF PRESS. MARCOS THEN ASKED AQUINO ABOUT MILITARY TRIBUNALS. AQUINO REPLIED THAT HIS BEING TRIED BY MILITARY TRIBUNAL WAS SIMILAR TO BEING TRIED BY COUR MARTIAL COMPOSED OF "IMPERIAL DRAGONS" FOR CRITICISM OF KKK IMPERIAL WIZARD. MARCOS APPARENTLY TOOK JOKE WELL, BUT SAID, "YOU SHOULDN'T MAKE JOKES LIKE THAT."

4. THEY THEN DISCUSSED SUBSTANTIVE MERITS OF CHARGES AGAINST FORMER SENATOR. MARCOS ASKED WHETHER IT WAS NOT TRUE AQUINO POSSESSED ILLEGAL FIRE ARMS. AQUINO COUNTERED MARCOS TOO HAD ILLEGAL WEAPONS DURING CAMPAIGN AGAINST MACAPAGAL. WHEN MARCOS ASKED WHETHER AQUINO HAD NOT MADE ARMS AVAILABLE TO COMMUNISTS, AQUINO SAID EVERYONE KNEW HE WAS NO COMMUNIST AND ADVERTED TO COMMANDER DANTE'S STATEMENT THAT HE HAD NEVER RECEIVED ARMS FROM "THAT LANDLORD" (AQUINO). AQUINO DID NOT DENY THAT HE HAD HELPED WOUNDED COMMUNISTS BUT SAID HE WOULD DO THE SAME THING FOR ANY FILIPINO IN TROUBLE. ACCORDING SALONGA, MARCOS SEEMED IMPRESSED BY THIS STATEMENT.

5. AT CONCLUSION OF MEETING MARCOS SAID THAT HE UNDER-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MANILA 09867 01 OF 02 271011Z

STOOD PEOPLE WHO REMAINED IN PRISON FOR LENGTHY TIME GOT TO KNOW THEMSELVES BETTER, LEARNED MANY NEW THINGS, ETC. AQUINO REPLIED HE WAS WILLING TO TRADE PLACES ANY TIME MARCOS DESIRED THE PRISON EXPERIENCE.

6. SALONGA SAID SECRETARY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE ENRILE AND SOLICITOR GENERAL MENDOZA PARTICIPATED IN MEETING. AQUINO WAS ASKED IF HE WISHED TO HAVE ANYBODY WITH HIM OR DESIRED TO SEE MARCOS ALONE. HE REPLIED NO ON BOTH COUNTS. ENRILE WAS DESIGNATED CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION WITH MARCOS ON FUTURE DISCUSSIONS, ALTHOUGH SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS WITH THE PRESIDENT HELD TO BE REAL POSSIBILITY. MARCOS INSTRUCTED MENDOZA TO BE IN TOUCH WITH AQUINO'S LAWYERS ABOUT MEANS OF HANDLING HIS CASE. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION OF REMOVING CASE FROM MILITARY TO CIVIL COURT AS FIRST STEP TOWARD MUTUALLY FACE-SAVING

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 09867 02 OF 02 271003Z
ACTION EA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 AS-01 DHA-02 INR-05 NSC-05
NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02 PRS-01 DODE-00 CIAE-00 /041 W
-----095590 271026Z /14

P 270933Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1614

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MANILA 9867

LIMDIS

COMPROMISE. AT ONE POINT, MARCOS ASKED AQUINO WHETHER HE WOULD BE WILLING TO WRITE HIM A LETTER REQUESTING PARDON FOR HIS OFFENSES. AQUINO SAID HE WOULD NEVER WRITE SUCH A LETTER.

7. IN DISCUSSING MEETING WITH EMBOFF, SALONGA CHARACTERIZED AQUINO AS "EUPHORIC" AFTER MEETING. ANOTHER OF AQUINO'S LAWYERS, JOKER ARROYO, WHO WAS PRESENT IN PRE-LUNCHONE DISCUSSION, SAID LATER AQUINO WAS NO CONSIDERABLY DEPRESSED, ESPECIALLY SINCE SOLICITOR GENERAL MENDOZA HAS LEFT THE COUNTRY FOR AT LEAST TEN DAYS. ARROYO STATED FLATLY THAT AQUINO WILL NOT BE RELEASED AND THAT MARCOS IS SIMPLY PLAYING CAT AND MOUSE GAME WITH HIM PRIMARILY IN RESPONSE TO EXTERNAL PRESSURE. SALONGA SAID ARROYO TOO PESSIMISTIC.

8. EMBOFF ASKED SALONGA WHETHER AQUINO MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF GOING ABROAD. SALONGA STATED AQUINO HAD NOT REPEAT NOT MENTIONED THIS COURSE OF ACTION SINCE HE BELIEVED SUGGESTION FOR EXILE SHOULD COME FROM MARCOS NOT HIMSELF. SALONGA SAID HE THINKS AQUINO WOULD DO HIMSELF AND HIS SUPPORTERS A GRAVE DISSERVICE SHOULD HE ELECT VOLUNTARY EXILE. SALONGA DID NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY OF AQUINO GOING ABROAD, BUT SAID HE FELT IT SHOULD BE CLEARLY AT INSTANCE OF MARCOS. EMBOFF REITERATED VIEW
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANILA 09867 02 OF 02 271003Z

HE HSA SEXPRESSED PREVIOUSLY TO AQUINO'S FAMILY THAT FORMER SENATOR'S PRIMARY DUTY IS TO HIS FAMILY AND THAT IF EXILE IS LIVE OPTION, HE SHOULD NOT BE TOO FINICKY ABOUT MANNER IN WHICH HE GOES OR IS SENT ABROAD.

9. SALONGA SAID NEXT HEARING IN AQUINO CASE SET FOR SEPTEMBER 29. AQUINO'S MILITARY LAWYER WILL ASK FOR ANOTHER DELAY TO PERMIT AQUINO'S CIVILIAN ATTORNEYS TO STUDY CASE MORE FULLY WITH VIEW TOWARD RECOMMENDING TRANSFER OF CASE TO CIVIL COURT. SALONGA SAID THIS IS SMOKE SCREEN FOR BEHIND THE SCENES NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID ONE FACE-SAVING OPTION MIGHT BE VOLUNTARY AMNESTY BY MARCOS OR, A FIRST STEP TOWARD SOLUTION, HOUSE ARREST.

10. COMMENT: THIS WAS FIRST MEETING BETWEEN MARCOS AND AQUINO SINCE AQUINO'S IMPRISONMENT IN SEPTEMBER 1972. INDEED, AQUINO AND MARCOS HAD HAD NO REAL MEETINGS IN THREE YEARS PRIOR TO MARTIAL LAW. THUS, JUNE 21 MEETING SOMEWHAT OF A BREAKTHROUGH. FINAL RESULTS OF THIS SESSION (IF ANY) REMAIN TO BE SEEN. FACT THAT MARCOS AND AQUINO TALKED AMICABLY FOR ALMOST THREE HOURS SUGGESTS "PLEA BARGAINING," WHICH WE HAVE ALWAYS FELT ESSENTIAL TO RESOLUTION OF CASE, MAY HAVE BEGUN. MEETING HAS CREATED CERTAIN EXPECTATIONS ON AQUINO'S PART, BUT ALSO ON PART OF OUTSIDE OBSERVERS, INCLUDING OURSELVES, OF WHICH MARCOS HARDLY UNAWARE. WE ARE ENCOURAGED THAT MEETING TOOK PLACE. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO MONITOR CASE CLOSELY.

STULL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, POLITICAL PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MANILA09867
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770228-0871
Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770615/aaaaamqa.tel
Line Count: 194
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9157da75-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2022995
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AQUINO-MARCOS MEETING
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, RP, (MARCOS, FERDINAND), (AQUINO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9157da75-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009